

01/17/02



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*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
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January 17, 2002

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Patent Application

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)
Appl. No. *To Be Assigned*; Filed: January 17, 2002
For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products**
Inventors: Egbert *et al.*
Our Ref: 1533.1510001/SRL/J-S

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. PTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/05);
2. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products

and naming as inventors:

Russ Egbert
Victor Lobo
Zhongli Pan

Commissioner for Patents

January 17, 2002

Page 2

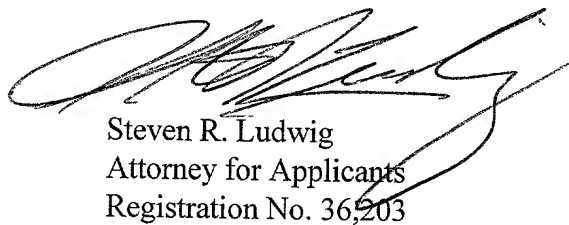
the application consisting of:

- a. A specification containing:
 - i. 22 pages of description prior to the claims;
 - ii. 3 pages of claims (Claims 1-21);
 - iii. a one (1) page abstract;
 - b. 2 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1 and 2);
 - c. An Application Data Sheet;
3. Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) (*in duplicate*);
 4. Letter to PTO Draftsman: Submission of Formal Drawings;
 5. Two (2) sheets of formal drawings with Figures 1 and 2; and
 6. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Steven R. Ludwig
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,203

Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Egbert *et al.*

Appl. No. *To Be Assigned*

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness
of Food Products**

Confirmation No.

Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1533.1510001/SRL/J-S

Letter to PTO Draftsman: Submission of Formal Drawings

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

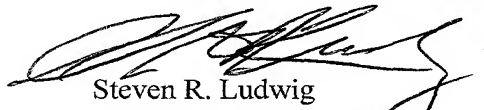
Sir:

Submitted herewith are two (2) sheets of formal drawings with Figures 1 and 2, corresponding to the informal drawings submitted herewith with the above-captioned application. Identification of the drawings is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(c). Acknowledgment of the receipt, approval, and entry of these formal drawings into this application is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that an extension of time is required, other than any already provided herewith. However, if an extension of time is needed to prevent abandonment of the application, then such extension of time is hereby petitioned. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this Letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Steven R. Ludwig
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Registration No. 36,203

Date: 1/17/02

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